

Message Text

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R 232118Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5092

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 03552

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PINR, IT, EEC
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REF: ROME 3158

1. MISSION IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ENRICO MACCHIA BEYOND THAT CONTAINED IN STATE 3123 OF FEBRUARY 1976, OF WHICH EMBASSY ROME WAS A RECIPIENT. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, MACCHIA LEFT BRUSSELS FOR THE OECD IN EARLY 1976.

2. SINCE USEC HAS IN ITS FILES COPIES OF A CLASSIFIED BIOGRAPHIC SHEET ON RENATO RUGGIERO PREPARED IN WASHINGTON AT THE TIME OF RUGGIERO'S VISIT TO THE U.S. IN 1971. WITH THEN EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT Malfatti, we leave it to the Department to provide Rome with basic biographic material on Ruggiero. Our comments which follow, are intended to update that material from 1971 on.

3. IN 1972, RUGGIERO BECAME POLITICAL ADVISOR TO EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT Mansholt. IN 1973, HE WAS APPOINTED COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR REGIONAL POLICY, AND IN EARLY 1977 BECAME CHIEF COMMISSION SPOKESMAN AND DIRECTOR
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GENERAL FOR INFORMATION.

4. RUGGIERO IS LIKED AND RESPECTED BY THE LOCAL PRESS CORPS AND BY HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE COMMISSION'S DIRECTORATE FOR INFORMATION.

5. THOUGH HE APPEARED TO BE A COMPETENT ADMINISTRATOR IN HIS REGIONAL POLICY JOB, HE HAS SUFFERED SOME

CRITICISM IN EC CIRCLES THIS PAST YEAR ON THE GROUNDS THAT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO SUPERVISE ADEQUATELY BOTH THE SPOKESMAN'S GROUP AND THE INFORMATION DG. THE LATTER SEEMED TO SUFFER MORE UNDER THIS MERGER, AND IT IS LIKELY THAT RUGGIERO'S SUCCESSOR WILL NOT TRY TO CONTROL BOTH BODIES, LEAVING ONE TO HIS DEPUTY. RUGGIERO HAS HAD A CONTINUING PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH USEC OFFICERS; WE HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE INTELLIGENT, FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL, SO IS HIS WIFE. HIS POLITICAL ACUMEN AND THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORKINGS OF THE COMMISSION AND EC AFFAIRS GENERALLY HAVE MADE HIM A USEFUL CONTACT. HE IS A SERIOUS AND THOUGHTFUL STUDENT OF EUROPEAN POLITICS AND ECONOMICS. RUGGIERO IS AMBITIOUS AND CONSCIOUSLY OPTED TO LEAVE A SECURE, EXTREMELY WELL PAID TOP COMMISSION JOB. HE HAS EXCELLENT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL CONNECTIONS AS WELL AS WELL-PLACED FRIENDS IN THE ITALIAN CAREER SERVICE. HE EXPECTS TO MOVE UP TO ONE OF THE TOP JOBS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WITHIN EIGHTEEN MONTHS AND IN OUR JUDGEMENT IS CLEARLY OUTSTANDING AMBASSADORIAL MATERIAL. HINTON

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